



## Volunteers 'Pickin' It Up' at Dale Hollow Lake

by Allen Earhart

**D**ale Hollow Lake annually provides recreational opportunities for more than three million visitors. Saturday, September 29, was a day that some of those visitors volunteered their time and hard work to give something back to their beautiful benefactor.

Taking to land and water, 130 enthusiastic volunteers of all ages set out to rectify some of the wrongs done to the lake over the past recreation season. They embarked on missions from Lillydale Campground, Dale Hollow State Park, Obey River Campground, and Pleasant Grove Recreation Area. The volunteers contributed 520 hours and picked up bags and bags of unsightly trash and discarded debris. The Friends of Dale Hollow Lake, Inc., (Friends) then rewarded them for their efforts with a picnic at the Dale Hollow Dam Recreation Area. Door prizes were provided by a number of local businesses and marinas. Everyone left with a full stomach and the satisfaction of having given something back to a lake that has already given so much to all of us.

The Friends and the Resource Management staff recognized Virginia Howard, a special volunteer who is a resident of Pickett County. At age 85, Virginia not only came for the cleanup, but got a head start on the work before Saturday. Along with her family, she picked up litter and debris around the lake for two days, a

practice she has observed for many years. Her selfless example served as an inspiration to all the volunteers at the shoreline cleanup. The Friends honored Howard and that hard work and dedication to the lake with an honorary membership to the organization.

Resource Management staff honored two more special friends, Dale and Kate Driskill, volunteers at Lillydale Campground who this year organized a first-time work weekend in the campground. The pair dedicated a weekend to National Public Lands Day by organizing 53 volunteers to paint lantern posts and bathroom doors, pressure wash stained

and soiled areas, pick up trash and stencil safety messages on courtesy floats. Not to be outdone, Overton County Sheriff W. B. Melton organized trustees from the Correctional Facility to come to Lillydale where they scraped, chipped, sanded, and primed lantern hangers. The hangers will be repainted during the next volunteer work weekend at the park.

Visitors gearing up for the next tourism season will be greeted by a cleaner, more beautiful Dale Hollow Lake thanks to all the unique volunteers who set aside time in September to help keep it unspoiled.



**Are we having fun or what?! Two ladies (above) prepare to do some painting on a dock on what could only be described as a weather-perfect day Sept. 29.**